

REMARKS

Applicant has invented an elegant solution to a long felt problem in the art, namely a means for attaching cylindrical shaped elements to a planar element (plate) devoid of miscellaneous brackets, screwed flanges, stabilizing stretchers, etc. At the same time, the connecting elements are hidden from view so that the joint appears clean aesthetically, but very strong, stable, and wobble-free.

Applicant's invention is very simple comprising a base plate such as a table top, hollow cylinder legs and a disk by which the legs are attached to the table top. One disk for each leg is connected by suitable means such as screws or bolts. The disk has a pattern of holes within its diameter body and threads on its outer diameter surface. The legs have interior threads. Screws hold the disk to the table and the legs are screwed to the disks. Thus the legs are cleanly and stably attached to the table top without visible connection means.

Contrariwise, the joint disclosed by Gagne comprises a table top (22), flange plate (37), a threaded plug (40) having an integral flange (41) and hollow cylinder legs (32). The flange plate (37) and plug (40) work in concert to provide a threaded connection by which the cylinder leg (32) is attached to the table top (22). Thus the plug flange (41) is received within a recess (42), the flange plate (37) is screwed to the table to hold the plug (40) to the table and provide a threaded connection for the legs. Unlike Applicant's invention, the plug (40) of Gagne has no attachment bolts through its body and the screws bolting the attaching flange (37) are exteriorly disposed in relationship to the cylinder leg (32).

Applicant's invention is a substantial improvement over Gagne as follows:

1. Only three primary joint elements (Applicant) instead of four (Gagne);
2. Simplified connecting disk (Applicant) instead of plug with flange element (Gagne);
3. No flange recess machined into table top (Applicant);
4. Connecting screws hidden from view (Applicant).

Applicant further notes that none of Schwartzback, Reynolds, or Collins patent disclosures cited of record by Examiner disclose the Applicant's invention or make obvious the invention if combined with the teaching of Gagne.

In summary, Applicant's invention is not anticipated by Gagne and Claims 1, 2 & 16 as amended are in condition for allowance. Further, Applicant's withdrawn claims 3-15, 17-20 should also be allowable as species claims depending from an allowed generic claim. Applicant hereby respectfully requests that the examiner speedily pass his application forward for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence will be deposited with the United States Postal Service by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450" on the date below

Date: 6/25/04

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